

## SALMON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH) REVIEW

The Pacific Coast Salmon Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review Oversight Panel (Panel) completed initial review of Pacific salmon EFH, which is presented in a draft report to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Agenda Item C.5.a, Attachment 1). Periodic review of EFH is required under the National Marine Fisheries Service Regulatory Guidance (50 CFR §600.815). Reviews should be conducted at least every five years, and should include evaluation of published and unpublished scientific literature and reports; information for interested parties; and previously unavailable or inaccessible data.

The Panel considered new information and literature, tools to assess habitat suitability, the list of barriers that represent the upstream extent of EFH, the potential to designate Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), fishing and non-fishing threats to EFH, and other considerations. The Council contracted with Cramer Fish Science to develop an annotated bibliography (Agenda Item C.5.a, Attachment 2) designed to inform the Panel's review process.

The Panel made several recommendations in the draft report, and will continue developing recommendations and supporting information in anticipation of final Council action at its March 2011 meeting.

The Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act (MSRA) requires fishery management plans (FMPs) to identify EFH for managed species. EFH for Pacific salmon was established by the Council in 1999, in Appendix A of Amendment 14 to the Pacific Coast Salmon Plan. Amendment 14 identified important habitats per life history stage, current and historic distribution, fishing and non-fishing threats to EFH, and identified research needs. Amendment 14 also identified about 50 large dams that lacked adequate fish passage, and interpreted those to the upstream extent of EFH in those watersheds. The Council considered, but did not establish HAPC for salmon at that time.

The Idaho County versus Department of Commerce court decision required NMFS to codify EFH for Pacific salmon, which was issued as a Final Rule in 2008. This rule included some revisions to EFH, mostly to correct errors and clarify information.

### **Council Action:**

#### **1. Approve the salmon EFH report for public review.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item C.5.a, Attachment 1; *Pacific Coast Salmon Essential Fish Habitat Review Draft Report*.
2. Agenda Item C.5.a, Attachment 2; *Appendix A: Annotated Bibliography for 2010 Essential Fish Habitat Update*.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Approve the Salmon EFH Report for Public Review

**Kerry Griffin**

PFMC  
08/27/10